

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) A composite material fabricated by a process comprising:

a) forming a fibrous structure comprising carbon, polyacrylonitrile, or rayon or ceramic fibers into a preform;

b) initially predominantly coating the fibers of that fibrous structure preform with elemental carbon to impregnate that preform with elemental carbon;

c) infiltrating the preform with a ceramic slurry to predominantly impregnate the fibers of the preform to form an impregnated green body;

d) infiltrating the impregnated green body with a liquid carbon precursor and pyrolyzing the liquid carbon precursor to form a carbon char;

e) infiltrating the impregnated green body with molten silicon to form a continuous matrix throughout the composite; and

f) reacting silicon in the continuous matrix with the carbon char to form silicon carbide.

15. (Original) The composite of claim 14, wherein the ceramic slurry is a boron carbide slurry.

16. (Original) The composite of claim 14, wherein said fibers of said preform are made from polyacrylonitrile.